

# Gun Deer Hunter Questionnaire 2003

By Brian Dhuey

## **Abstract**

The 2003 gun deer season provided active hunters with over three million days of hunter recreation. Hunter participation and hunter days afield did not significantly differ from the 2002 deer season ( $P=0.94$ ,  $P=0.24$ ). Gun deer hunters averaged 5.2 days afield during the 2003 season. The majority of gun deer hunting took place on private lands (70%). The Northern Forest, Eastern Farmland, and Southern Farmland regions of the state experienced the most hunter days. Ninety-seven percent of all respondents hunted the 2003 "Regular" gun deer season. Forty-seven percent of the respondents who actively hunted in 2003 killed a deer.

## **Methods**

A survey was mailed to approximately 10,000 gun deer hunters after the completion of the 2003 gun deer season. The sample was drawn from the 2003 license sales, which had gun deer authority, in proportion to license sales for each county. The questionnaire included specific questions about the days and units in which gun deer hunters hunted as well as the type of land hunted (private, public, or industrial). A second mailing of 5,000 questionnaires was sent to non-respondents. Data from all returned questionnaires were entered into the DNR UNIX production server and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

## **Results**

Responses were received from 4,217 of 10,000 hunters surveyed. After duplicates were removed, the resulting response rate was 42%. In 2003, 97.6% of hunters who purchased a license hunted during the 9-day season (Table 1). Forty-seven percent of the respondents who actively hunted killed a deer (antlered or antlerless) during the 2003 season. These numbers are similar to the 2002 season where 97.3% of the license holders hunted and 44% of those killed a deer.

Wisconsin again held an early antlerless only deer season prior to the opening of the regular gun deer season. Twenty-two percent of the regular season hunters hunted in this season. Hunters were also asked if they planned on hunting any of the Chronic Wasting Disease herd reduction seasons that either proceeded/followed the regular gun deer season. Sixteen percent of license holders planned on taking part in these special seasons. Most hunters (81%) said that they would shoot an antlerless deer if their unit were a special antlerless deer unit next year.

Hunters were asked several questions about the discovery of CWD in the wild deer herd and how it has or may effect their hunting. Hunters were asked about how concerned they were about the health of the deer herd. Twelve percent were "Extremely concerned", 23% were "Not at all concerned", while the rest were "Slightly Concern" or "Moderately Concerned". The majority of hunters felt that the DNR's plan to eliminate CWD in the deer herd has been "About right". Most hunters said that they would continue to hunt in the same area if CWD were found in their current hunt area. Hunter's #1 concern about CWD was evenly split between the "Potential effect of CWD on the deer herd" and the "Potential effect of eating a CWD infected deer". The next most commonly stated concern was the "Potential effect of CWD on my Wisconsin deer hunting" and lastly the "Potential effect of CWD on the Wisconsin economy".

Fifteen percent of hunters surveyed anticipated hunting the 2003 muzzleloader season that immediately follows the gun deer season. This is an increase from 2002 levels when 13% planned on hunting the muzzleloader season.

When the results of this survey were expanded to the larger population of licensed gun deer hunters, the number of active hunters in 2003 was estimated at 630,404. This is an increase from the estimated 602,512 hunters that hunted the 2002 season. The 2003 gun deer season (22 - 30 Nov.) provided these hunters with approximately 3.2 million days of hunting recreation. This is an increase of about 200,000 hunter days from 2002 levels. Most of this increase in hunter activity can be attributed to the increase in license sales and hunter participation from the fears of CWD subsiding.

Gun deer hunters averaged 5.2 days afield in 2003, this is exactly the same as in 2002. Most hunter days were spent in the Northern Forest (34%), Eastern Farmland (24%), and Southern Farmland (20%) regions of Wisconsin (Figure 1). The remaining hunter days were spent in the Western Farmland and Central Forest regions, 15% and 8% respectively. Much of this distribution is in relation to the amount of deer habitat in each region. Sixty-eight percent of hunter days were spent on private lands (Table 1). Public lands (about 20% of the State's deer range) provided approximately 653,000 hunter days of recreation (21% of hunter days). This is similar to the 623,000 hunter days on public land in 2002. The rest of the hunter days were spent on Industrial forest, Forest Tax, or a mixture of land ownership types.

Hunters were asked how they obtained access to private land on the opening day of the gun deer season. Eighty-three percent of the respondents either owned the land themselves, hunted on land owned by a relative or family member, or hunted on a friend's or neighbor's land.

Most hunters (77%) felt the deer population was "about the same" or "went down" from last year. Hunters were asked to rate the overall quality of their 2003 gun deer season. Nineteen percent rated their hunt "Very High" or "Fairly High". Forty-one percent rated their hunt "About Average", while 40% rated it "Fairly Low" to "Very Low". Successful hunters rated their hunt "Very High" or "Fairly High" 29% of the time, while unsuccessful hunters rated their hunt "Very High" or "Fairly High" 10% of the time.

Hunters were asked to rate the factors having the most influence on their perception of a "quality" deer hunt. "Seeing deer" was the most important factor effecting the hunter's perception of a "quality" hunt. The second most important factor was "Spending time with friends and family". The least important factor effecting a hunter's perception of a "quality" hunt was the weather. Thirty-two percent of the hunters said they passed on shooting a "legal buck" during the season. The most common reason for passing on a buck was "Too small".

Hunters were asked what factors, if any, limited the number of antlerless deer they shot. Twenty-nine percent of the respondents said that they "did not want any more deer". The second most common factor limiting their antlerless harvest was not seeing any more deer. The least stated factor was "no place to donate the deer" and "opposed to shooting does".

Hunters were asked if they hunted in a county that had a baiting ban. Twenty-nine percent hunted in a county with a ban. Hunters were asked how the ban on baiting deer effected their hunting in 2003. Most hunters felt it had no effect (58.5%). The hunters who did say the baiting ban effected hunting, were evenly divided between "Positive" (19.8%) and "Negative" (19.3%) effects.

Most hunters did not submit their deer head for CWD testing. The ones that did predominantly used the DNR process to do so. Very few hunters submitted a sample for their deer via another process.

**Table 1.** *Answers to the 2003 gun deer hunter questionnaire.*

Question 1. What area(s) of the state did you do most of your gun deer hunting in? (Please check **ALL** that apply)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Intensive Harvest Zone	315	3.6%
Herd Reduction Zone	1,247	10.6%
Outstate (in the rest of the state)	7,479	85.0%
Did not hunt	70	0.8%

Question 2. What type(s) of hunting license(s) did you purchase for your own use this season? (Please check **ALL** that apply)  
(Percentages based on 4,181 questionnaire responses)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Sports	643	15.4%
Small Game	1,003	24.0%
Deer	1,914	45.8%
Bear	455	10.9%
Archery	1,271	30.3%
Patron	767	18.3%

Question 3. What is your county of residence?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Northern Forest	478	12.1%
Western Farmland	590	14.9%
Central Forest	232	5.9%
Eastern Farmland	1,035	26.2%
Southern Farmland	1,614	40.9%

No Answer = 232

Question 4. Did you hunt the **early** antlerless only gun deer season in Zone T Units (30 Oct. – 2 Nov.)?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	918	22.1%
No	3,246	78.0%

No Answer = 17

Question 5. Do you plan on hunting the **late** antlerless only gun deer season in Zone T Units (11-14 Dec.)?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	953	23.1%
No	3,179	76.9%

No Answer = 49

Question 6. Do you plan on hunting the extended seasons (Oct. 30 – Jan. 3) in the Intensive Harvest Zone? (See Map)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	225	5.4%
No	3,918	94.6%

No Answer = 38

Question 7. Do you plan on hunting the extended seasons (Nov. 22 - Jan. 3) in the Management Zone? (See Map)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	429	10.4%
No	3,714	89.7%

No Answer = 38

Question 8. If your unit is a special antlerless deer unit next year, would you shoot an antlerless deer?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	3,314	80.8%
No	786	19.2%

No Answer = 81

Question 9. Do you plan on hunting the 2003 muzzleloader season, which immediately follows the 2003 **"Regular"** 9-day gun deer season?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	642	15.4%
No	3,517	84.6%

No Answer = 22

Question 10. With CWD in Wisconsin's deer herd, how concerned are you **currently** about the health of the deer herd? (Check only one)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Not at all concerned	958	23.1%
Slightly concerned	1,654	39.9%
Moderately concerned	1,030	24.8%
Extremely concerned	509	12.3%

No Answer = 30

Question 11. The Wisconsin DNR's plan to eliminate CWD in the deer herd has been: (Check only one)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Not aggressive enough	600	14.6%
About right	1,778	43.1%
Too aggressive	548	13.3%
I don't know enough about the plan to have an opinion	1,196	29.0%

No Answer = 59

Question 12. If CWD were found in the area you currently hunt, what would you do? (Check only one)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Keep on hunting the area I currently hunt	3,185	77.1%
Keep on hunting in Wisconsin, but move to an area that was CWD free	505	12.2%
Give up deer hunting in Wisconsin, but hunt in another state	136	3.3%
Give up all deer hunting	307	7.4%

No Answer = 48

Question 13. What is your #1 concern about CWD in Wisconsin? (Check only one)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Potential effect of CWD on the deer herd	1,477	36.4%
Potential effect of eating a CWD infected deer	1,492	36.7%
Potential effect of CWD on my Wisconsin deer hunting	843	20.8%
Potential effect of CWD on the Wisconsin economy	251	6.2%

No Answer = 118

Question 14. Did you hunt the "**Regular**" 9-day gun deer season of Nov. 22 –30?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	4,060	97.6%
No	98	2.4%

No Answer = 23

Question 15. How many days did you hunt during the 2003 "**Regular**" 9-day gun deer season? (Do not include days hunted during the early antlerless only or muzzleloader seasons.) Mean days hunted = 5.2.

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
1	171	4.3%
2	435	10.9%
3	456	11.4%
4	559	14.0%
5	617	15.4%
6	468	11.7%
7	449	11.2%
8	316	7.9%
9	536	13.4%

No Answer = 53

Question 16. How many **antlerless** deer permits did you receive this season? Mean number of permits = 1.4.

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
None	815	20.7%
1	1,637	41.6%
2	1,063	27.0%
>2	422	10.7%

No Answer = 123

Question 17. How many deer did you register during the 2003 "Regular" gun deer hunting season?

Answer	Mean Registered
Antlerless	0.45
Antlered	0.35

Question 17a. If you hunted deer with a gun this past season, fill in the table below.

Write in the management unit number for each day you hunted. If you hunted in more than one unit on a given day, list only the unit in which you spent the most time. Also, please specify the type of land on which you hunted.

Date 2003	Regions Where Hunters Hunted (# of hunter days)					Total
	Northern Forest	Western Farmland	Central Forest	Eastern Farmland	Southern Farmland	
Nov. 22	196,815	87,130	54,843	126,833	116,173	581,794
Nov. 23	180,594	79,715	50,362	108,295	95,627	514,593
Nov. 24	127,760	43,102	27,807	64,575	48,509	311,753
Nov. 25	103,506	36,613	19,311	60,559	41,248	261,237
Nov. 26	90,529	39,548	19,620	63,648	47,582	260,927
Nov. 27	90,220	48,818	22,246	83,268	65,348	309,900
Nov. 28	105,668	50,362	26,572	81,414	68,901	332,917
Nov. 29	98,562	51,598	26,726	90,529	76,316	343,731
Nov. 30	65,811	40,475	16,684	65,039	60,404	248,413
Total	1,059,465	477,361	264,171	744,160	620,108	3,165,265

Deer Management Unit Group	Land Type Hunters Hunted (# of hunter days)					Total
	Private	Public	Industrial	Forest Tax	Mixed	
A	38,158	35,377	3,090	5,870	7,261	89,756
B	45,882	42,638	2,781	3,862	17,457	112,620
C	61,176	56,542	6,488	8,497	9,887	142,590
D	133,321	61,640	5,407	7,570	28,889	236,827
E	32,133	55,460	309	6,643	6,488	101,033
F	57,005	44,646	3,553	6,797	12,204	124,205
G	20,238	42,947	6,025	6,179	4,480	79,869
H	65,039	58,550	927	5,870	12,513	142,899
J	175,805	30,588	772	3,862	19,620	230,647
K	647,914	62,876	4,635	4,017	24,718	744,160
L	155,567	85,431	1,854	4,017	17,302	264,171
M	477,671	31,979	0	6,952	14,676	531,278
N	298,312	43,874	154	2,317	19,620	364,277
Total	2,208,221	652,548	35,995	72,453	195,115	3,164,332

Question 18. If you hunted privately owned land on **OPENING DAY** of gun deer season, how did you obtain access to the land? (Please check ONE.)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
I own the land.	1,047	33.8%
I lease the land.	112	3.6%
I hunted land owned by a relative or member of my family.	968	31.3%
I hunted on a friend's or neighbor's land.	617	19.9%
I obtained permission from a non-related landowner.	257	8.3%
I hunted unposted private land.	13	0.4%
Other (please describe):	80	2.6%

No Answer = 966

Question 19. In your hunting area, how have deer numbers changed from the last year? (Check Only One)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Deer numbers went up	471	11.7%
Deer numbers went down	1,535	38.0%
About the same	1,580	39.1%
I did not hunt the same area as last year	179	4.4%
Unsure	277	6.9%

No Answer = 18

Question 20. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your 2003 **"Regular"** 9-day gun deer hunt? (Check Only One.)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Very High	265	6.6%
Fairly High	506	12.6%
About Average	1,658	41.1%
Fairly Low	1,035	25.7%
Very Low	567	14.1%

No Answer = 29



Question 21. Please rate the factors that most influence your perception of a “quality” deer hunt. Enter a value of 1 to 7 next to each statement, with “1” having the most effect and “7” having the least effect on you hunting experience.

Factor influencing hunt	% That ranked it “1” (having the most influence)*	Mean value of response
An opportunity to kill a deer	25.9%	3.28
Seeing deer	43.8%	2.48
Seeing bucks	30.1%	3.07
Weather	12.1%	4.41
Not seeing other hunters	15.3%	4.29
Spending time with friends and family	44.7%	2.85
Killing a deer	17.4%	4.20

\* Many hunters rated multiple factors as having the most influence so the column total will not equal 100%.

Question 22. Did you pass on shooting a legal buck?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	1,295	32.3%
No	2,718	67.7%

No Answer = 47

Question 22a. If yes, what factors entered into your decision? (Check ALL)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Too Small	853	54.7%
Deer not in a safe direction for shot	165	10.6%
Concerned over deer diseases	4	0.3%
Not allowed to by Earn-a-Buck rules	122	7.8%
Deer not positioned for sure shot	309	19.8%
Did not want more venison	89	5.7%
Equipment malfunction	18	1.2%

Question 23. What factors, if any, limited the number of antlerless deer you shot this fall?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Limited by the landowner	103	2.2%
Cost of deer processing	206	4.4%
Not enough freezer space	178	3.8%
Did not want any more deer	707	15.1%
No place to donate the deer	70	1.5%
Opposed to shooting does	146	3.1%
Did not want to reduce the deer herd any more	572	12.2%
Not enough time to hunt	393	8.4%
Did not see any more deer	1,426	30.5%
None	874	18.7%

Question 24. How many deer do you and your immediate family eat in one year?

Mean = 1.9

Question 25. Did you hunt in one of the 23 counties that had a ban on bait?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	1,039	28.9%
No	2,553	71.1%

No Answer = 468

Question 25a. What effect, if any, did the ban on bait have on your hunt? (Please check **ONLY** one.)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Positive – deer moving more naturally	192	19.8%
Neutral – little bait is used where I hunt regardless of the ban	424	43.6%
Neutral – area used to be baited, but didn't affect me	145	14.9%
Negative – I was not as successful as when baiting was legal	188	19.3%
No change – area still baited (illegally)	23	2.4%

Question 26. Did you submit a deer head for Chronic Wasting Disease testing?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
No	3,892	96.8%
Yes, through the DNR sampling process	126	3.1%
Yes, through a veterinarian	1	0.2%

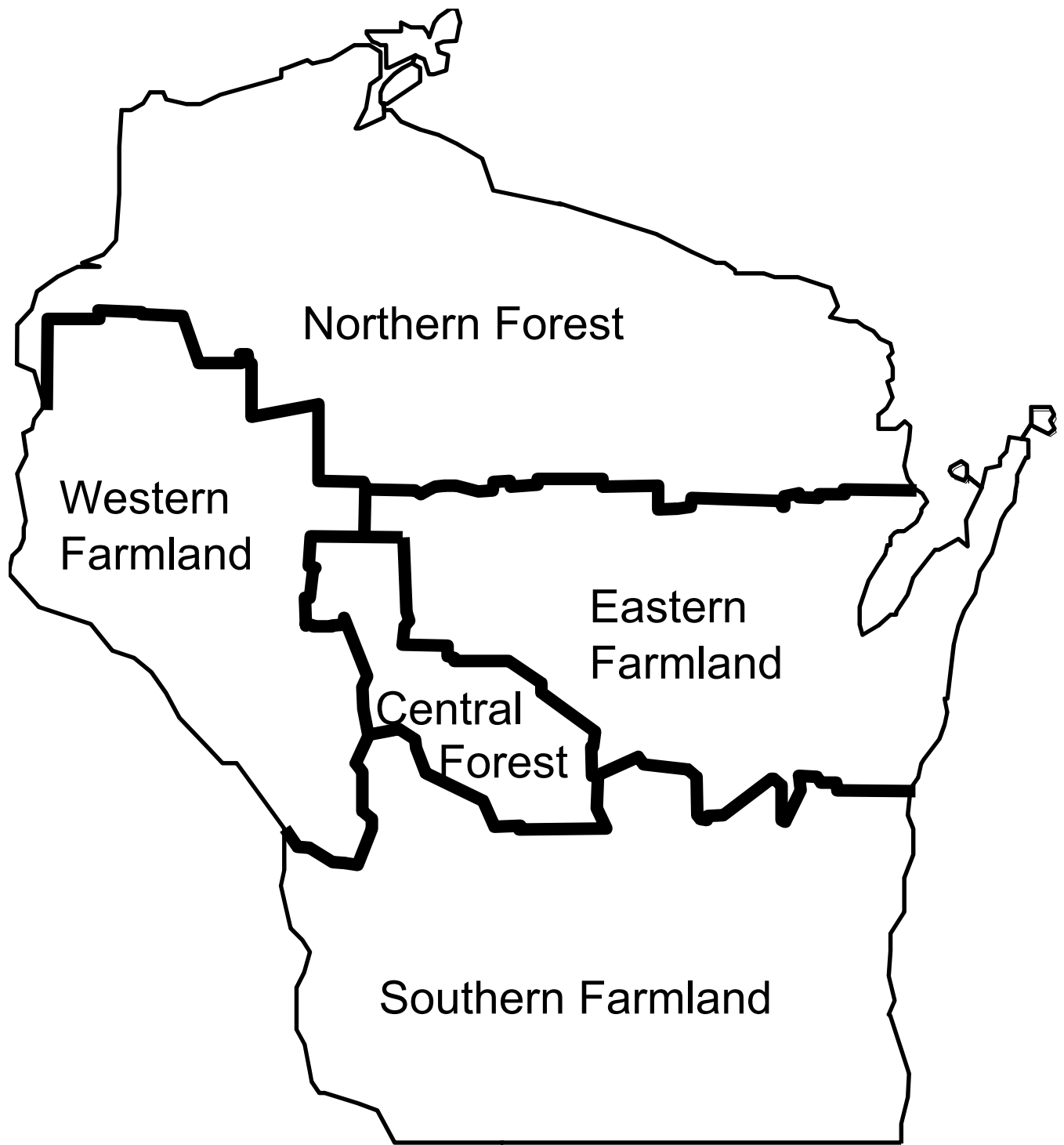
No Answer = 41

Question 27. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst, rate your overall satisfaction with deer hunting in Wisconsin? (Circle One)

**Mean = 6.3**

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
1	152	4.1%
2	134	3.6%
3	229	6.1%
4	254	6.8%
5	541	14.5%
6	386	10.3%
7	627	16.8%
8	892	23.9%
9	382	10.2%
10	142	3.8%

No Answer = 321



**Figure 1.** *Deer management units grouped by region.*

## 2003 Gun Deer Hunting Questionnaire

s. 23.09(2)(k), Wis. Stats.  
Form 2300-043 (R. 11/03)

Dear Fellow Deer Hunter:

You have been selected as part of a sample of deer hunters to provide information on hunter distribution during the recent "Regular" gun deer season. Please answer the questions below. Completion of this survey is voluntary. To aid you in answering part of the questionnaire, refer to the map of Wisconsin's deer management units printed on the back of this questionnaire. Report on yourself only, not on your hunting party or family and only on your Wisconsin deer hunting.

We need your response no matter whether, or how much, you hunted. Reverse the flap on this questionnaire, tape the edge and mail. Using your stamp will save DNR funds for management even though no postage is required to return the questionnaire.

Your cooperation is appreciated and will help us do a better job of managing Wisconsin's deer resource.

Sincerely,

Michele Windsor  
Deer and Bear Ecologist (Acting)  
Bureau of Wildlife Management

<p>1. What areas of the state did you gun deer hunt in? (Please check ALL that apply.) (See Map)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Intensive Harvest Zone  <input type="checkbox"/> Herd Reduction Zone  <input type="checkbox"/> Outstate (in the rest of the state)  <input type="checkbox"/> Did not hunt</p>	<p>11. The Wisconsin DNR's plan to eliminate CWD in the deer herd has been: <b>(Check only one)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not aggressive enough  <input type="checkbox"/> About right  <input type="checkbox"/> Too aggressive  <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know enough about the plan to have an opinion</p>
<p>2. What type(s) of hunting license(s) did you purchase for your own use this season? (Please check ALL that apply.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sports      <input type="checkbox"/> Small Game      <input type="checkbox"/> Bear  <input type="checkbox"/> Deer      <input type="checkbox"/> Archery      <input type="checkbox"/> Patron</p>	<p>12. If CWD were found in the area you currently hunt, what would you do? <b>(Check only one)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Keep on hunting the area I currently hunt  <input type="checkbox"/> Keep on hunting in Wisconsin, but move to an area that was CWD free  <input type="checkbox"/> Give up deer hunting in Wisconsin, but hunt in another state  <input type="checkbox"/> Give up all deer hunting</p>
<p>3. What is your county of residence?</p> <p>_____</p>	
<p>4. Did you hunt the <b>early</b> antlerless gun deer season in Zone T Units (Oct. 30-Nov. 2)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>13. What is your #1 concern about CWD in Wisconsin? <b>(Check only one)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Potential effect of CWD on the deer herd  <input type="checkbox"/> Potential effect of eating a CWD infected deer  <input type="checkbox"/> Potential effect of CWD on my Wisconsin deer hunting  <input type="checkbox"/> Potential effect of CWD on the Wisconsin economy</p>
<p>5. Do you plan on hunting the <b>late</b> antlerless only deer season in Zone T Units (Dec. 11-14)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>6. Do you plan on hunting the extended seasons (Oct. 30 - Jan 3) in the Intensive Harvest Zone? (See Map.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>14. Did you hunt the <b>"Regular"</b> 9-day gun deer season of Nov. 22-Nov. 30? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>7. Do you plan on hunting the extended seasons (Nov. 22 - Jan. 3) in the Herd Reduction Zone? (See Map.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>8. If your unit is a special antlerless deer unit next year, would you shoot an antlerless deer?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><b>If you answered NO, please stop here and return the survey.</b></p>
<p>9. Do you plan on hunting the 2003 muzzleloader season which immediately follows the 2003 <b>"Regular"</b> 9-day gun deer season?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>15. How many days did you hunt during the 2003 <b>"Regular"</b> 9-day gun deer season? (Do not include days hunted during the early antlerless only or muzzleloader seasons.)</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>10. With CWD in Wisconsin's deer herd, how concerned are you <b>currently</b> about the health of the deer herd? <b>(Check only one)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not at all concerned  <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly concerned  <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately concerned  <input type="checkbox"/> Extremely concerned</p>	<p>16. How many <b>antlerless</b> deer permits did you receive this season?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>17. How many deer did you register during the 2003 <b>"Regular"</b> 9-day gun deer hunting season of Nov. 22 - Nov. 30?</p> <p>_____ antlered    _____ antlerless (does)</p>

Figure 2. 2003 Gun deer hunter questionnaire.

17a. If you hunted deer with a gun during the **"Regular"** 9-day deer season, fill in the table below.

Write in the management unit number for each day you hunted. (See Map.) If you hunted in more than one unit on a given day, list only the unit in which you spent the most time. Also, please specify the type of land on which you hunted.

**REGULAR SEASON**

Date 2003	Unit Number	Private	Public	Industrial	Forest Tax
Nov. 22 (Sat.)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 23 (Sun.)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 24 (Mon.)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 25 (Tues.)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 26 (Wed.)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 27 (Thurs.)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 28 (Fri.)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 29 (Sat.)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 30 (Sun.)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. If you hunted privately-owned land on **OPENING DAY** of gun deer season, how did you obtain access to the land? **(Check only one)**

(1) ☐ I own the land.  
 (2) ☐ I lease the land.  
 (3) ☐ I hunted land owned by a relative or member of my family.  
 (4) ☐ I hunted on a friend's or neighbor's land.  
 (5) ☐ I obtained permission from a non-related landowner.  
 (6) ☐ I hunted unposted private land.  
 (7) ☐ Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

19. In your hunting area, how have deer numbers changed from the last year? **(Check only one)**

(1) ☐ Deer numbers went up  
 (2) ☐ Deer numbers went down  
 (3) ☐ About the same  
 (4) ☐ I did not hunt the same areas as last year  
 (5) ☐ Unsure

20. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your 2003 **"Regular"** 9-day gun deer hunt? **(Check only one)**

(1) ☐ Very High (4) ☐ Fairly Low  
 (2) ☐ Fairly High (5) ☐ Very Low  
 (3) ☐ About Average

21. Please rate the factors that most influence your perception of a "quality" deer hunt. Enter a value of 1 to 7 next to each statement, with "1" having the most effect and "7" having the least effect on a "quality" hunting experience.

\_\_\_\_\_ An opportunity to kill a deer  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Seeing deer  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Seeing bucks  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Weather  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Not seeing other hunters  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Spending time with friends and family  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Killing a deer

22. Did you pass on shooting a legal buck?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what factors entered into your decision?

(1) ☐ Too small  
 (2) ☐ Deer not in a safe direction for shot  
 (3) ☐ Concerned over deer diseases  
 (4) ☐ Not allowed to by Earn-a-Buck rules  
 (5) ☐ Deer not positioned for sure shot  
 (6) ☐ Did not want more venison  
 (7) ☐ Equipment malfunction

23. What factors, if any, limited the number of antlerless deer you shot this fall?

(1) ☐ Limited by the landowner  
 (2) ☐ Cost of deer processing  
 (3) ☐ Not enough freezer space  
 (4) ☐ Did not want any more deer  
 (5) ☐ No place to donate the deer  
 (6) ☐ Opposed to shooting  
 (7) ☐ Did not want to reduce the deer herd anymore  
 (8) ☐ Not enough time to hunt  
 (9) ☐ Did not see any more deer  
 (10) ☐ None

24. How many deer do you and your immediate family eat in one year?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

25. Did you hunt in one of the 23 counties that had a ban on bait?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

What effect, if any, did the ban on bait have on your hunt? **(Check only one)**

(1) ☐ Positive- deer moving more naturally  
 (2) ☐ Neutral - little bait is used where I hunt regardless of the ban  
 (3) ☐ Neutral- area used to be baited, but didn't affect me  
 (4) ☐ Negative- I was not as successful as when baiting was legal  
 (5) ☐ No change- area still baited (illegally)

(Note: you will NOT be contacted about this.)

26. Did you submit a deer head for Chronic Wasting Disease testing?

(1) ☐ No  
 (2) ☐ Yes, through the DNR sampling process  
 (3) ☐ Yes, through a veterinarian

23. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst, rate your overall satisfaction with deer hunting in Wisconsin?

Circle One:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Figure 2. 2003 Gun deer hunter questionnaire (continued).**